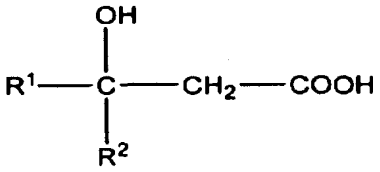
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): An indicator material for assessing body odor comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

a substance (A) which is a β-hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1)

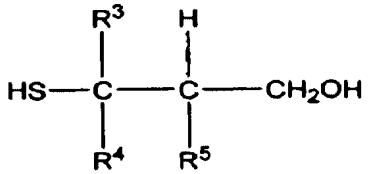


wherein R^1 is an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons; R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons, and the total number of carbons in the formula (1) is 10 or less;

a substance (B) which is a derivative of β-hydroxycarboxylic acid, wherein an atom(s) or an atomic group(s) is introduced to a hydroxyl group and/or a carboxylic group of a β-hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the formula (1);

a substance (C) which is an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the following formula (2):

Formula (2)



wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom or methyl group; R^4 is an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbons; and R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, the total number of carbons in the formula (2) is 8 or less; and

a substance (D) which is a derivative of an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position, wherein an atom(s) or an atom group(s) is introduced to a mercapto group and/or a hydroxyl group of an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2).

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 1, wherein the indicator material for assessing body odor contains the substance (A) and/or the substance (B).

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 1, wherein the indicator material for assessing body odor contains the substance (C) and/or the substance (D).

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 1, wherein the indicator material for assessing body odor contains the substance(s) (A) and/or (B) and the substance(s) (C) and/or (D).

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 4, wherein the indicator material for assessing body odor contains the substance (A) and the substance (C).

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 4, wherein the indicator material for assessing body odor contains the substance (B) and the substance (D).

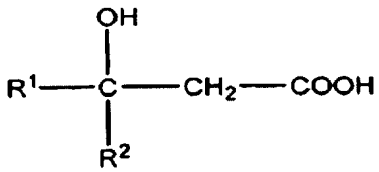
Claim 7 (Withdrawn): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 5, wherein the weight ratio of the substances (C) and (A) (substance (C):substance (A)) is 1:10 to 1:1,000.

Claims 8 - 15 (Canceled):

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant using as an index(es) at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

a substance (A) which is a β-hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1)

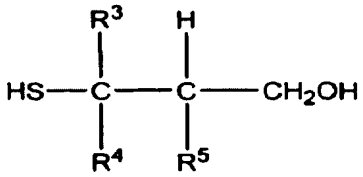


wherein R^1 is an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons; R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons, and the total number of carbons in the formula (1) is 10 or less;

a substance (B) which is a derivative of β-hydroxycarboxylic acid, wherein an atom(s) or an atomic group(s) is introduced to a hydroxyl group and/or a carboxylic group of a β-hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the formula (1);

a substance (C) which is an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the following formula (2):

Formula (2)



wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom or methyl group; R^4 is an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbons; and R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, the total number of carbons in the formula (2) is 8 or less; and

a substance (D) which is a derivative of an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position, wherein an atom(s) or an atom group(s) is introduced to a mercapto group and/or a hydroxyl group of an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2).

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 16, using an indicator material comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of the substances (A), (B), (C) and (D).

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 16, using the substance (A) and/or the substance (B) as an index(es).

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 16, using the substance (C) and/or the substance (D) as an index(es).

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 16, using the substances (A) and/or (B) and the substances (C) and/or (D) as indexes.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 20, using the substance (A) and the substance (C) as indexes.

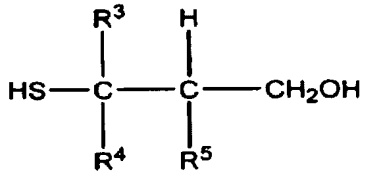
Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 20, using the substance (B) and the substance (D) as indexes.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 21, using an indicator material in which the weight ratio of the substances (C) and (A) (substance (C):substance (A)) is 1:10 to 1:1,000.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A method of producing an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2) comprising a step of:

incubating perspiration originated from a human in an environment with an oxygen concentration of 10 v/v% or less:

Formula (2)



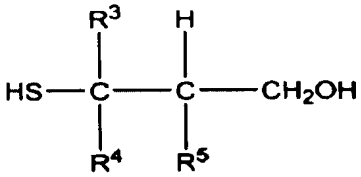
wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R^4 is an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbons; and R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, the total number of carbons in the formula (2) is 8 or less.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A method of assessing body odor comprising steps of:

incubating perspiration originated from a human in an environment with an oxygen concentration of 10 v/v% or less to produce an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2); and

using the produced compound as an index:

Formula (2)



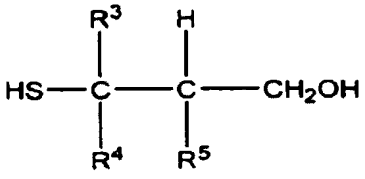
Claim 26 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant comprising

steps of:

incubating perspiration originated from a human in an environment with an oxygen concentration of 10 v/v% or less to produce an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2); and

using the produced compound as an index:

Formula (2)



Claim 27 (Withdrawn): A kit for assessing body odor of a human, wherein the kit for assessing body odor of a human includes a coloration reagent which reacts with β-hydroxycarboxylic acid originated from perspiration of a human.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): A kit for assessing body odor of a human according to claim 27, wherein the kit for assessing body odor of a human further includes a coloration reagent which reacts with fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said β -hydroxycarboxylic acid.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): A kit for assessing according to claim 27, wherein the reagent includes a compound having a hydrazino group or a diazomethyl group as an essential component.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): A kit for assessing according to claim 29, wherein the reagent is 2-nitrophenylhydrazine or 9-anthryldiazomethane.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A method of assessing body odor of a human comprising steps of:

a first step of extracting a mixture of β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid from perspiration of a human;

a second step of adding a coloration reagent which reacts with the β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or the fatty acid having 12 or less carbon atoms other than said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid ~~the reagent~~ to the mixture to exhibit color; and

a third step of assessing the kind and/or strength of body odor from the color exhibited in the second step.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A method of assessing body odor of a human comprising steps of:

a first step of extracting a mixture of β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid from perspiration of a human;

a second step of separating β-hydroxycarboxylic acid from the mixture;

a third step of reacting said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid separated in the second step with a coloration reagent which reacts with the β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or the fatty acid having 12 or less carbon atoms other than said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid ~~the reagent~~ to exhibit color; and

a fourth step of assessing the kind and/or strength of body odor from the color exhibited in the third step.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A method of assessing body odor of a human comprising steps of:

a first step of extracting a mixture of β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid from perspiration of a human;

a second step of separating the mixture into β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid respectively;

a third step of reacting said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid separated in the second step with a coloration reagent which reacts with the β-hydroxycarboxylic acid ~~the reagent~~ to exhibit color;

a fourth step of reacting said fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid separated in the second step with a coloration reagent which reacts with the fatty acid having 12 or less carbon atoms other than said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid ~~the reagent~~ to exhibit color; and

a fifth step of assessing the kind and/or strength of body odor from each of the colors exhibited in the third and fourth steps.

34. (New) A method of assessing body odor of a human according to claim 31, wherein the coloration reagent comprises a compound having a hydrazino group or a diazomethyl group.

35. (New) A method of assessing body odor of a human according to claim 32, wherein the coloration reagent comprises a compound having a hydrazino group or a diazomethyl group.

36. (New) A method of assessing body odor of a human according to claim 33, wherein the coloration reagent which reacts with said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and the coloration reagent which reacts with said fatty acid having 12 or less carbon atoms other than said β-hydroxycarboxylic acid comprises a compound having a hydrazino group or a diazomethyl group.